

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 SIL-01 LAB-04 AID-05
HA-05 COME-00 /112 W
-----037157 011818Z /46

R 010911Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 499
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
ANCONSUL MADRAS 1236

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2532

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ECON, ELAB, CE
SUBJ: PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENTS FOR HIS
SUCCESSORS

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT J.R. JAYEWARDENA, IN HIS ROLE AS
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA, ADDRESSED A SPECIAL
CONVOCATION ON MAY 31, 1978. THE PRESIDENT REVIEWED THE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, AND EMPHASIZED
THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO REDUCE THE COUNTRY S
SEVERE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. WHILE NO STARTLING PRONOUNCEMENTS
WERE MADE, THE PRESIDENT DID SUGGEST THE NEED FOR BASIC REFORMS
OF THE COUNTRY S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND INDICATED
THAT HE WOULD TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST ANYONE TRYING TO UNDER-
MINE HIS PROGRAMS. HE ALSO OUTLINED TEN PRECEDENTS HE
WOULD FOLLOW AS AN EXAMPLE TO FUTURE PRESIDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT
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PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE SAID THE THEME OF HIS ADDRESS WAS THE
NEED TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR THE OVER ONE MILLION UNEMPLOYED. HE
BRIEFLY REVIEWED HIS GOVERNMENT S FOUR MAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
(THE ACCELERATED MAHAWELI GANGA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, THE FREE
TRADE ZONE, THE SUBURBAN COLOMBO EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,
AND THE COLOMBO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM) AND PREDICTED THESE PROGRAMS
WOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST 500,000 NEW JOBS IN 1978 AND 1979. HE

SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY FOUND EMPLOYMENT FOR 125,000 AND AN ADDITIONAL 168,000 PEOPLE WOULD BE PUT TO WORK UNDER THE NEW JOB BANK SCHEME. THE PRESIDENT TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT INTERNATIONAL FINANCE OF RS. 11 BILLION (DLRS 694 MILLION) HAS BEEN PROMISED FOR THE MAHAWELI PROGRAM PLUS AN ADDITIONAL RS. 6 BILLION (DLRS 379 MILLION) FOR OTHER PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

3. THE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE THE SYSTEM

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE EMPLOYMENT GOALS, PRESIDENT JAYAWARDENE EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEM. STATING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INHERITED AN ECONOMY RESTRAINED, CONSTRICTED AND BROUGHT TO THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE AND THAT CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY ARE STILL RAMPANT, THE PRESIDENT WISHED HE COULD SHATTER THIS STRUCTURE TO BITS AND THEN PERMIT THE PEOPLE TO BUILD IT CLOSER TO THEIR HEARTS DESIRE . THE FEW SPECIFIC CHANGES HE PROPOSED, HOWEVER, WERE LESS THAN SHATTERING. POINTING TO THE NEED FOR STABILITY TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT JAYAWARDENE SUGGESTED THE BANNING OF STRIKES BY PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES. HE ALSO HINTED THAT BOYCOTTS OR VIOLENCE BY UNIVERSITY STAFF AND/OR STUDENTS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY NEEDED PRUNING, WEEDING, AND A SHOCK TREATMENT IN ORDER FOR IT TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOVERNMENT S OBJECTIVES.

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4. DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

REFERRING TO THE REPEAL OF THE EMERGENCY LAWS AND THE FREEING OF THOSE JAILED UNDER THESE LAWS, THE PRESIDENT SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAS ATTEMPTED TO CREATE A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY OUT OF THE CARICATURE OF DEMOCRACY THAT WAS HANDED TO US . HE PLEDGED NOT TO CHANGE THE SOCIALIST PATTERN THAT HAS GROWN UP DURING THE PAST YEARS, BUT TO REFASHION IT TO MAKE THE PEOPLE OWNERS OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE . HE SAID THAT LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO PERMIT THOSE WORKING IN THE STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES BECOMING CO-PARTNERS IN THE MANAGEMENT .

5. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY SAYING HE WISHED TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENTS FOR THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW HIM IN OFFICE. HE THEN PLEDGED HIMSELF TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING TEN PRECEDENTS:

- (1) I WILL ACT ALWAYS THROUGH THE CABINET AND PARLIAMENT, PRESERVING THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AS IT EXISTED WITHOUT DIMINUTION OF ANY OF THEIR POWERS.
- (2) I WILL NOT CREATE A GROUP KNOWN AS THE PRESIDENT S MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL INFLUENCE HIM.

(3) I WILL IMPLEMENT LAWS AND DECISIONS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT IMPARTIALLY, WITHOUT POLITICAL, PARTY OR FAMILY BIAS.

(4) I WILL NOT ENCOURAGE NOR COUNTENANCE POLITICAL VICTIMISATION.

(5) I WILL TREAT EVERY CITIZEN OF SRI LANKA ALIKE AND GIVE HIM OR HER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO PROGRESS. SRI LANKA WILL NOT BE ONLY A SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY, IT WILL BE A MERITOCRACY TOO.

(6) I WILL OFFER TO THE MINORITY, ESPECIALLY TO THE TAMIL SPEAKING PEOPLE WHO ARE CITIZENS AN EQUAL PLACE IN EVERY SPHERE OF LIFE. I HAVE NO RACIAL NOR RELIGIOUS BIAS FOR I ATTEMPT IN MY HUMBLE WAY TO FASHION MY LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDDHA S TEACHING.

(7) IN SPEECH AND ACTION I WILL TRY TO BE NON-VIOLENT FOR I ABHOR VIOLENCE.

(8) I WILL TRY TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT WE HAVE ADOPTED FOR MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. I WILL ENDEAVOUR
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TO ENCOURAGE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR PARTY IN PARLIAMENT TOO TO FOLLOW IT.

(9) I WILL PRESERVE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS.

(10) IN EVERY ACT OF MINE I WILL CONSIDER HOW IT BENEFITS THE HUMBLEST AND THE POOREST AND ENDEAVOR TO HELP THEM FIRST.

6. THE FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT JAYAWARDENE S SPEECH IS BEING
POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RULES, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COLOMB02532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-1113
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806109/aaaadpgv.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a9a7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2166519
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENTS FOR HIS SUCCESSORS
TAGS: PINT, ECON, ELAB, CE, (JAYEWARDENE, J R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a9a7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014